Mercury & Citizen

Thursday, May 6, 2010

FREE EVERY WEEK

The past week in Chronicle headlines

County youth worker Simon **Beard was** arrested after a Sky News 'sting' investigating alleged internet grooming



Fire ravaged the roof of historical **Chester House** Farm in Irchester a month before restoration work was due to be completed



Hardingstone Day Nursery has celebrated its 20th birthday with a surprise party for its founder Jackie **Byles**





County Hall set to invest in circuit

TAXPAYERS in Northamptonshire will help fund Silverstone Circuit to the tune of £1.2m over the next four

Northamptonshire County Council is next week expected to agree an annual £300,000 funding deal for the circuit over the next four years, over and above the £10m loan which the authority agreed to invest in the motorsport facility at the end of 2009.

In a report before Tuesday's meeting of the council's cabinet, cor-porate director for environment growth and commissioning, Tony Ciaburro, said the investment would help towards the future development of the circuit and the creation

of new jobs.

He said: "The role of the county council investment will be to support the technical work needed to deliver the future jobs potential.

"Investment will be particularly focused on realising early wins in terms of creating new jobs, addressing infrastructure issues and promoting road safety."

He said the short-term expansion plans could create 3,000 new jobs at Silverstone and a further 2,000 in the wider region.

The authority is also in the final stages of approving the multi-million pound loan for the circuit's operators, Silverstone Estates Ltd. The report states the five-year loan is "sound in terms of the proposed rate of return to be achieved, which is favourable in comparison to returns attainable in the current financial markets".

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In the Country

End of the road for village life?



Quinton's May Day celebrations, including the crowning of the May Queen Gemma Padbury, 13.

VILLAGERS have urged planners to take a look at the kind of May Day celebrations that could end forever if a dual carriageway scheme goes ahead in Northamptonshire.

Residents of Quinton, five miles southeast of Northampton, used this week's Bank Holiday to celebrate the impending spring with traditional maypole dancing and the crowning of their May Queen. But a gloomy shadow was cast over the

event by the knowledge that, as things stand, their May Days are numbered be-cause of plans by the Joint Planning Unit (JPU) to authorise the building of a road right through the site where the festivities have been held going back 102 years.

Organiser Helen Padbury said: "Plans show it goes straight through grade one farmland and right over the village

green.

"My 300-year-old listed cottage is in its path but I've been told it would simply be compulsorily purchased. The JPU said it is for the good of the country and there will be some winners

and losers. "But the whole village will lose out if this celebration vanishes.

"It's not just the tradition but the community spirit that comes from everyone pulling together to organise and contrib-

"It's a completely uncommercial thing which some people here today have been taking part in for years.

"We are a two-street village who see this as a really important part of our lives.

The proposed new dual-carriageway would link the M1 with the A45 as part of plans to provide the infrastructure for about 18,000 homes in the area over the next 20 years.

Peter D'Amery, Quinton resident and the village crier, said: "A lot of people are of the opinion that a few hundred houses here wouldn't do a lot of harm. But 18,000 of them is complete overkill.

"For people who moved here, May Day is what village life is all about. They now find out it will soon, in effect, be a town and this will all end."

The villagers are hoping that the

strength of protest about the homes plans can still influence the final decisions on where to place them.

Quinton residents led protests when villagers from across the county de-scended on Northampton to march on the JPU offices in Bedford Road last Septem-

Although many accept that new houses need to be built, they are urging the JPU to look at other options such as brownfield land

The JPU's plans suggest the homes could be built between Grange Park, Wootton and Little Houghton.



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Siege suspect is still being quizzed



The seige closed Derngate for most of Monday as armed officers were called in

AN ARMED man who stand-off with firearms officers was taken into custody for questioning after being arrested during the siege.

The alleged gunman, who has been named as 42year-old James Sneddon, remained under police supervision throughout the day on Tuesday and was questioned about an apparent shoot-ing in Bedford Mansions in Derngate. As the Mercury went to press, no charges had been made but he was facing possible firearms charges after the incident, which closed Derngate for most of

Monday.

A spokeswoman from which man-Servite Houses, which manages Bedford Mansions, said the firm was looking into what action would be taken against the resident.

She said: "We are currently waiting for formal identification from the police.

"Once we receive this we

will be taking the relevant course of action. The safety of our residents is extremely important to us."

Witness Richard Perry, who was in the ground floor flat directly opposite the alleged gunman when shots were fired, was also continuing to help police with their investigation yesterday.

He said: "I just hope this wakes up the housing association because the building isn't safe any more.

"People are constantly kicking the doors in and breaking windows, much worse.

"Everyone has been talking about the shooting and it did cause a lot of drama.

He appealed for Servite to install CCTV cameras throughout the building to stop people from breaking the lock and intercom system and to deter unwanted visitors from getting into the

Servite Houses is due to carry out an inspection of the building next week.

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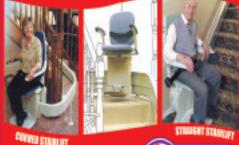


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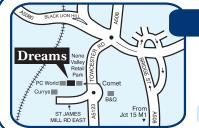
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Solution to puzzle of safety

Children from Roade Youth Cafe have designed a 3D puzzle to promote road safety after the death of their friend, Sophie Bywaters, who was killed crossing the A45 in Wootton in October last year

A SPECIALLY designed Rubik's Cube-style puzzle is to be handed out to teenagers in Northampton to help promote road safety among young people.

A group of youngsters from the Roade Youth Café designed the 3D puzzle following the tragic death of 13-year-old Sophie Bywaters in October last year.

Sophie, who was fatally injured as she tried to cross the A45 near Wootton, was friends with many of the teenagers behind the project, which has been funded

by Northamptonsire County Council.

Over a four-month period, the group researched road safety issues, handed out questionnaires and carried out photography

sions. Jenny Evans, who helps run the cafe, said: "We were lucky enough to receive some funding from Northamptonshire County Council and around about the same time we received the funding was sadly when Sophie was killed on

the A45. "Some of the girls who were involved in the project went to school with Sophie and they decided they wanted to use the 3D puzzle to get out a message to teenagers in terms of road safety

Jenny said the aim was to target teenagers from local secondary schools and reinforce the potential dangers of local roads to them.

She said: "What they want to do is use the puzzle to go into schools and do a short presentation about road safety and about why they are involved with this project. It is a real 3D puzzle with each side is a different colour and has a different message on it.

"It is particularly for those teenagers who have gone through primary schools and through road safety lessons and maybe the messages on the

puzzle can act as a general reminder to them."

Georgia Jeffery, aged 14, said: "We were given an amazing opportunity to design a puzzle to highlight an issue that we felt affected us and might affect other people our age, with the idea that it would distributed into local schools and other organisa-tions across Northamptonshire."







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Memorial match of 35-a-side



More than 70 players turned out to play in a match at Daventry for the Gary Barton Memorial Trust

A FOOTBALL match played by more than 70 people has helped raise cash in memory of a popular fan who died from cancer.

So many people wanted to play in the memorial match for father-of-two Gary Barton, at Daventry Town Football Club on Monday, that his widow Julia and schoolfriend Terry O'Neill gave in and let them all play.

The game had to be divided into four quarters with changes happening every 22-and-a-half minutes

Mrs Barton said: "I was overwhelmed by the response.

"There were so many people who wanted to remember Gary that I thought why not let them all do it?"

The game was to raise money for both the Cawthorne Ward at Danetre Hospital, in Daventry, where he was treated, and for Talbot Butler cancer ward at North-ampton General Hospital, where Gary was cared for in his last weeks.

About £1,100 of the proceeds of the Gary Barton Memorial Trust have already been given to Cawthorne Ward and another £1,200 to Talbot Butler Ward.

Gary was a huge Chelsea FC fan and season ticket holder and the game was contested between fellow Blues' fans on one side and supporters of other teams on

the opposing team.

Mr O'Neill said: "The day was all about remembering Gary. I knew him from the age of 14 when I moved into the house next door and we always talked about football so this is quite fitting.

"It's funny though that he was one of those who hated it when Sven Goran-Eriksson used to make all those substitutions during England friendlies. I bet Gary's having a chuckle about this one.'

Gary, aged 45, from Daventry, passed away at Danetre Hospital in January this year after an 11-month battle with can-

He also spent time at Northampton General Hospital during his illness. Mrs Barton, aged 45, said: "Staff at both

of the hospitals treated him so well that we thought it would be good to raise money so other people can get the same level of care he had. It's not until you need them that you realise how fantastic these nurses and doctors can be.'

Church rally

A CLASSIC car rally will be held in aid of a village church whose roof has been stolen twice in the last 12 months.

Proceeds are being raised through a village fete for the Woodford Cum Membris parish church, St Mary the Virgin, the lead roof of which has been the victim of metal thieves twice in one year.

To entice more funds from fete visitors' pockets, period cars will also take part in the July 10 event in West Farndon in the first ever Raising the

Roof Rally.

All vehicles will be judged for the Woodford Halse Pride & Joy award with the winner receiving a cup.



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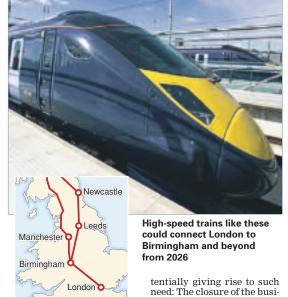
PLANS are being drawn up in Westminster to prepare to compensate homeowners and businesses who would be affected by the creation of a new high-speed rail link through Northamptonshire.

The Labour Government announced earlier this year that it would press ahead, in principle, with a new link that could see 250mph trains going through the south of the county en route between London and Birmingham.

In a report before Northamptonshire County Council next week, the authority is being asked to agree to the introduction of a so-called Extreme Hardship Scheme to compensate people whose homes and livelihoods would be hit by the project.

In the report by corporate director for environment, growth and commissioning, Tony Ciaburro, the council sets out its position.

In its submission to the project directors High Speed Two Ltd, it states: "The council believes the scheme should also apply to com-



ness or community asset, ex-

treme financial pressure and

the need to move to larger

be up and running by 2026

with further plans to extend

The high speed link could

mercial properties and community assets.

"The following circumstances are proposed as po-

it to cities such as Manchester and Leeds.

Although one high speed link does exist in the UK – between St Pancras and the Channel Tunnel – similar schemes have been operating in Japan since 1964 and in France since 1981.

The proposed route will clip the southern part of the county, from just south of Brackley through to Turweston and passing close to the villages of Greatworth, Thorpe Mandeville, Chipping Warden, Aston-le-Walls and Lower Boddington before continuing into Warwickshire and beyond.

Several sites have already been identified as being ones for compulsory purchase including Greatworth Park, Chipping Warden School and Fir Tree Nursery in Boddington.

The report cites a number of advantages which Northamptonshire will benefit from as a result of the scheme going forward, including jobs during the creation phase, improving rail links to the county and the removal of some traffic from the M40 and M1 motorways.





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THE county council has sent out 500 DIY consultation toolkits to enable groups of residents to have their own debates about future public service spending decisions.

The toolkits include information

The toolkits include information about Northamptonshire County Council and its services, DIY exercises, conversation starters to help ensure the discussion flows and a PowerPoint presentation with presenter's notes.

The consultation is open until the end of May. The DIY toolkits are available to download from www.northamptonshire.gov.uk/youchoose.





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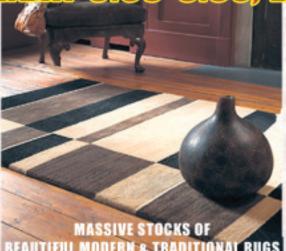


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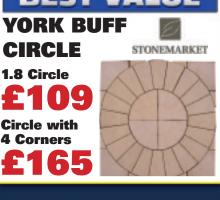
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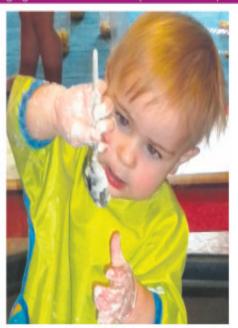
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Fourth new store for centre

GROSVENOR Centre managers have declared themselves delighted that a fourth new store will be opening inside the shopping centre within weeks as

ping centre within weeks as town retail picks up. At the start of April, trendy clothing shop Su-perdry announced it was taking up the unit former-ly occupied by shoe store Qube. And milkshake shop ShakeAway and Jewel Nation also opened their doors at the weekend. The Grosvenor

The Grosvenor Centre has now revealed that the former Zavvi music store, one of the centre's largest units, is on the verge of con-



The opening of ShakeAway

verting to a Madhouse fashion outlet.

Shopping centre manager, Sheridan New, said: 'We're really pleased to get another unit filled. I think it's the result of a period of hard work on behalf of letting agents who have been tapping into new markets.

There's always a bit of a gap between the death of old companies who have gone out of business and the expansion of the newer ones.

'It creates space for new people to come in and we've now done the deals to get some of those who are on the up to come here.

"Shops like Superdry are branching out and that one in particular is a store people will travel from miles around to visit.

"We really are delighted with all the new stores." Superdry and Madhouse should open within weeks, following hot on the heels of the opening of Jewel Nation and ShakeAway, which opened at the weekend.

The positive retail news for the Grosvenor Centre comes after property agents Carter Jonas announced 11 commercial properties in Northampton town centre worth £1.5 million would go under the hammer later

this month.

The empty and leased premises, which include eateries, shops, offices and five properties in the Gold Street, Marefair and York Road areas of town, are to be auctioned at the Holiday Inn, Bedford Road, North-ampton on Tuesday, May

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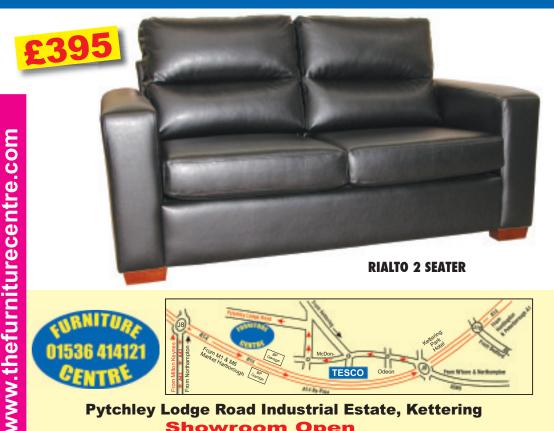


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Theatre's trio to tackle trek

THREE members of the Royal & Derngate staff are trekking 84 miles in three days from London to Northampton to raise money for the theatre's Challenge 125 fund.

To mark the 125th anniversary of Northampton's Royal Theatre fundraisers have embarked on a year-long programme of events to raise £125,000, which will go back into work produced for the venue.

So far £80,000 has been raised, but artistic director Laurie Sansom, along with sales supervisor Jodie Mortern-Davies and Jo Blake, a storyteller whose work is featured in the forthcoming Hometown season at the theatre, are hoping to get the venue closer to its target by walking from The National Theatre in London back to the Royal & Derngate.

The route will take them over fields, motorways and towpaths - hopefully bringing them back to the Royal & Derngate tomorrow afternoon.

Jo Blake, aged 28, said: "I have been organising the route. The plan is to walk along the A5 and then at other points we will go along the Grand Canal towpath. We are also going to pick up footpaths across fields.

"We will have to do eight or nine hours' walking a day.

"Laurie was inspired to do the walk by Northampton poet John Clare who was in a psychiatric hospital in Epping and escaped and walked all the way back to a village in Northamp-



som, sales supervisor Jodie Mortern-Davies and Jo Blake are walking from London to Northampton

tonshire in just three days."

Jodie Mortern-Davies added: "I have been doing a little bit of training – walking around Abington and going to the gym four or five times a week.

"I was training for the London Marathon but I got a knee injury – I thought walking would be better than running."

The official end of the theatre's anniversary year will be marked on May 8 with a special dinner, however some fund-raising activities will continue to take place after the event.

To sponsor the walkers isit: www.justgiving.com/ visit: challenge125walk

Members of the public are invited to join in the last few miles of the walk to raise additional sponsorship. Call the box office on 01604 624811 for more information.



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Ruby Wedding

Colin & Teresa

HILLERY

In Memoriam

DILLON

David John

4th May 2006.

Four years ago

today you were suddenly taken

from us.

Not a day goes by when we

don't miss you. You meant so much

to each of us and in our hearts you'll always be. We love you lots Laura, Sophie and Abigail

x x x Forever in

my heart. My love always,

Angela x x

DILLON

David

Died May 4th 2006.

Remembering

my very deai Son-in-Law

who is in my thoughts.

And is very

much missed Rene

Always in my thoughts

ENGLISH

George

Passed away

May 4th 2007.

I often shed a tear

wishing you were

here, but you will always be in our

hearts, we think of

you every day.

Love Wife Jean.

Wendy, Dave

and Families.

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BLOWS Elsie

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Carol.

memories of my dear Mum who passed away 5th May 1988. What I would give if I could say I'm going to see my Mum today to hear her voice to see her smile to my heart with love forever Emma, Tez, Emily and Elliott sit and talk with her awhile to be together in the same old way

WARREN — Olive

more than a thought away Mum. Loved and remembered In Memoriam

WHITE Eddie

unbearable departure. Our passion remains enclosed and attached to your spirit, flanked with bountiful memories that we maintain dearly. We're blessed you're our heritage, which

The White and Bryan family 2010



Doreen

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YOUNG Doreen

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YOUNG

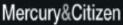
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EVANS - Bill Passed away peacefully on the 27th April 2010 aged 87. Goodbye old friend. God Bless. Di

In Memoriam

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HILL Sonya

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(a) any slip road leading to or from the A45 at its junction

(b) the slip road leading to the northbound carriageway

of the A45 from its roundabout junction with Aggate Way and Grendon Road.

The work will be carried out over night between 21:00 hours

and 06:00 hours and is expected to start on Monday 17
May 2010 and last for approximately twelve nights.

vehicles being used in connection with the works will be

The Order will come into force on 10 May 2010.

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A Higher Executive Officer in the Highways Agency

to Steve Longden, Project Manager on behalf of the

Highways Agency, on 01623 886637.

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ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 – SECTION 14(1)(a)

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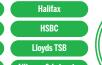
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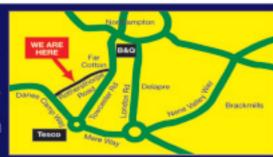
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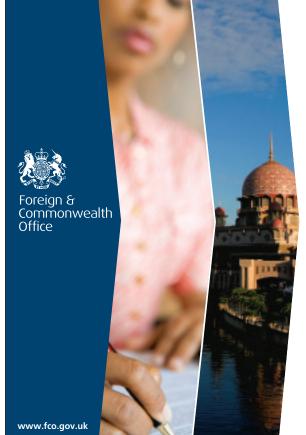
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Office based person required for admin and general bookkeeping in a small family run local business. Basic computer skills are essential, experience with Sage software would be useful. Please send CV to: Job Application PO Box 6935 Rushden NN10 6WZ

Mercury & Citizen, Thursday, May 6th, 2010 23



Student Administration Services Senior Northampton Assessment Centre Officer £19,743 - £23,566 pa

This varied role will involve supporting the Northampton Assessment Centre activity for students applying for Disabled Student Allowance. You will be working within the wider Student & Administration Services Department.

With experience of managing office procedures for a busy centre you will demonstrate an excellent customer service approach. Requiring excellent communication skills, good attention to detail and a flexible approach to work, you will liaise with applicants, academic departments and external agencies including: DSA QAG (Disabled Student Allowance Quality Assurance Group), SFE (Student Finance England) and Suppliers of adaptive technology. You should have the ability to work well under pressure, be able to work on your own initiative and to work well within a team exercising discretion and confidentiality at all times.

Educated to degree standard (or equivalent) and IT literate, you will have a proven track record in an office administration role and be able to demonstrate excellent communication, organisational and interpersonal skills.

This post is subject to a background disclosure check by the Criminal Records Bureau before any appointment can be confirmed.

For an informal discussion about the above post, please contact either: Mr Graham Sellick on 01604 892668 or via email at: graham.sellick@northampton.ac.uk; or Ms Jenny Dunstall (Deputy Head of Student Services) on 01604 892252 or via email at: jenny.dunstall@northampton.ac.uk

Ouote Ref: VN09110 Closing date: 21 May 2010. Interview date: 3 June 2010.

Information Services

Service Desk Advisers Part time

£8.87 per hour

The Service Desk provides vital support to staff and students of the University, by ensuring timely and effective technical support and advice, in response to requests, problems and incidents. A new phase of development is currently in hand, providing exciting opportunities to be involved in a progressive and customer-facing service.

We currently have several part-time opportunities to join the team of Service Desk Advisers. Hours of work will initially be offered on a flexible basis, but may be subject to review and thus become more predicted,

You will deal efficiently with IT and essential Library related problems and enquiries from around the organisation. You will have a good general knowledge of IT systems and applications, and ideally experience within a technical role. Experience of working within an educational context will be an advantage.

Closing date: 14 May 2010. Interview date: 26 May 2010.

For an information pack please visit www.northampton.ac.uk/about/jobs or Email: per.apply@northampton.ac.uk

Alternatively call the 24 hour answerphone on (01604) 892822.

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Sport

Larkin tipping Saints for play-off joy

FORMER Saints coach Paul Larkin believes Jim Mallinder's team are better than the side he helped coach to the Guinness Premiership play-offs six years ago.

Larkin was part of Wayne Smith's coaching team that guided Saints to the play-offs two seasons in a row in 2003 and 2004, which was the last time the club reached the semi-final stage.

Both times they lost to Wasps at Adams Park, and though Larkin feels home advantage is important, he doesn't think it will be a barrier for Mallinder's young

Larkin, who was performance analyst under director of rugby Smith, said: "I think today's side is better and they have a massive opportunity to suceed.

"The side we had under Wayne Smith probably had more internationals, but the one Jim, Dorian (West) and Grays (Paul Grayson) have put together is a better team.

"They have been able to harness the exuberance of youth in the squad.

"They have been able to nurture them from humble beginnings in National League One and it's been progressive. As a coach that is what you want, the team to improve each season.
"You raise the bar each season

and it is exceptional that Saints have achieved that each season.

"When they won the LV= Cup, I think that has satisfied the fans this season, but it raised the expectations of the players and that has been harnessed by the management.'

Larkin says home advantage proved vital when Saints lost to 57-20 to Wasps in 2004 and 19-10 in 2003 in the play-off semi-fi-

"The pressure is on them to win this weekend," said Larkin.
"We always struggled at Adams

Park and they were a very difficult side to play against back then. But with the age of this Saints side being so young, they will not fear playing away in the semi-finals.

'You would want to play at home though, with the support that Saints get it is like having a 16th player and it puts pressure on the opposition."

Saints will earn a home semifinal if they beat London Irish at the Madejski Stadium in the final league game of the season on Saturday (ko 3pm)

Sammo relishing task



END OF THE PLAY-OFF ROAD? - Liam Davis trudges off the Valley Parade pitch as some young supporters invade the pitch following Bradford City's 2-0 win over the Cobblers last Saturday

PICTURE: KELLY COOPER

IAN SAMPSON says the process of compiling the Cobblers retained list this season will be a pain-free process for

The Town boss has offered contracts to Andy Holt and Liam Davis in the past seven days, with the deal presented to the latter being for two more years at Sixfields.

Ryan Gilligan and Paul Rodgers have now also put pen to paper on their extensions at the club, Abdul Osman has received his offer in writing, and leading scorer Adebayo Akinfenwa is discussing the details on a twoyear deal.

But decisions need to be made on several other players, including the likes of midfield playmaker Luke Guttridge, who is available for selection for Saturday's visit of Bury after serving a three-match sus-

Sampson is planning to talk to each player and let them know his decision in the next week or so, a process that he says will not be an uncomfortable one.

"We'll announce tained list after retained end of the season and between now and then I'll sit down with the ones we want to let go and the ones we want to keep and let them know," said the manager, who must guide the Cobblers to a win over the Shakers on the final day and hope three others results go their way to finish in the play-offs.

"All will be revealed very

soon and it will be a pain-free process for me. It's the manager's job.

"I won't be feeling any pain through making these decisions but what I will be doing is doing the best thing for Northampton Town and within the budget I've got."

Sampson is likely to be working within a tighter financial framework next term but confirms he has already got 'a couple' of players in mind as far as summer signings are concerned.
"I don't want to change

too many players around because there's no guar-antees that the players you are going to bring in are any better than the ones you've got," he

"I've seen enough in the players that have performed for me to know that they could be challenging for a play-off position.

"We'll have a look at it.

I've got my ideas of what I want to do and there are plenty of players who are out of contract who we'd like to talk to.

"It's early days yet but we've earmarked a couple and I'm always having agents ringing me up offering me players here, there and everywhere."

The Cobblers were beat-en 2-0 at Bradford City last weekend, with Dean Beckwith being sent off in the first half.

